

### The frost

And fog give it the feel  
of a very light  
but often detailed  
pencil sketch  
patches  
of plain air

No Cezanne this  
though the tension  
of the flat roofs against  
the tower could wrench you  
half around

And the naked branches  
a quarter mile  
to fore --  
then the small town

Our mortars  
will root them out

### The snake

Skin  
is premeditated

The snake skin  
is not  
half a mile long